

LA

DCI
Salvador

T28033

Sat Dec 09 04:27:49 1989

Page 1

DJYQA

0081

SYRIAN LEADER OFFERS TROOPS TO OUST AOUN FROM STRONGHOLD

Sat Dec 09 04:24:43 1989

KUWAIT -(DJ)--SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SATURDAY, SAID HE WAS WILLING TO PROVIDE LEBANESE PRESIDENT ELIAS HRAWI WITH SYRIAN TROOPS TO OUST GEN. MICHEL AOUN FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

'IF THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT WANTS TO USE LEBANESE REGULAR ARMY UNITS IT WILL BE HIS DECISION WHICH WE WILL SUPPORT. IF HE WANTS SYRIAN FORCES WE ARE READY,' ASSAD TOLD THE DAILY AL-QABAS.

HE SAID THE PREDOMINATELY MOSLEM UNITS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY WERE PROBABLY STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE OTHER HALF OF THE LEBANESE ARMY, THE 20,000 MOSTLY CHRISTIAN TROOPS SERVING AOUN.

ASSAD SAID THE USE OF FORCE WAS THE MOST LIKELY CHOICE FOR ENDING WHAT HE CALLED 'AOUN'S ADAMANT ADHERANCE TO REBELLION AND HIS CHALLENGE OF THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY.'

AOUN, WHO HAS REJECTED THE ARAB-MEDIATED RECONCILIATION PROCESS THAT BROUGHT HRAWI TO POWER, REMAINS ENTRENCHED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT BAABDA IN THE CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED ENCLAVE. LITTLE REMAINS OF THE BUILDING ITSELF DUE TO ALMOST CONSTANT SHELLING IN FIGHTING FROM MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, BUT THE COMPOUND HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY.

ASSAD'S INTERVIEW COINCIDED WITH A CAMPAIGN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF SAUDI ARABIA, ALGERIA AND MOROCCO--THE ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE WORKING ON THE PEACE PLAN--FOR ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON AOUN TO BACK DOWN PEACEFULLY.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE SCHEDULED TO HOLD TALKS IN DAMASCUS SATURDAY BEFORE CONTINUING TO IRAQ, FRANCE AND THE VATICAN.

-0-

-(DJ-12-09-89 0924GMT)

#

T28030

Sat Dec 09 04:18:42 1989

Page 1

RYRLCP

677

-LEBANON 1STLD (SCHEDULED)

Sat Dec 09 04:16:56 1989

CHRISTIAN MILITIA RALLY IN BEIRUT CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE:

By Peter Smerdon

BEIRUT, Dec 9, Reuter - Lebanon's largest Christian militia abruptly called off a rally on Saturday that had threatened a confrontation with supporters of army General Michel Aoun in east Beirut.

The Lebanese Forces (LF) militia and rightwing Falange Party cited bad weather for postponing the "resistance day" rally although heavy overnight rain had ended by morning.

Some Christian political sources said the LF cancelled the demonstration to avoid tension with mainly-Christian troops backing Aoun, who is clinging to power within Lebanon's Christian enclave in defiance of demands for his surrender by the country's new President Elias Hrawi.

"The bad weather was a way out," a Christian security source said.

In a new bid to end Lebanon's 14-year civil war, mediators from the Arab League, Saudi Arabia and Algeria flew to Damascus from Riyadh on Saturday for talks with Syrian leaders.

Syria's President Hafez al-Assad who quoted on Saturday however as being gloomy about peace hopes.

The League, which set up a peace committee during a meeting in Morocco early this year, succeeded in bringing about a tenuous ceasefire in Lebanon in September.

The thud of artillery added to tension in Beirut on Saturday, but residents who had scurried for shelter were calmed by an army statement broadcast by radio stations saying the firing was an exercise and apologising for the confusion.

The rally by the Lebanese Forces was originally timed to coincide with with a nearly two-week vigil by thousands of Aoun's supporters at the presidential palace in the Baabda suburb of east Beirut.

LF workers had replaced posters of Aoun with pictures of Front leader Samir Geagea on Friday, fuelling fears that renewed political rivalry could lead to violent confrontation.

Aoun's supporters have camped around the palace to deter any attack ordered by Lebanon's Syrian-backed Christian president to oust the defiant general from the enclave he shares with the 10,000 strong Lebanese Forces.

Geagea has said his militia would support Aoun's 15,000 troops against an attack but he has failed to announce his position on Aoun's campaign against Hrawi. The president backs an Arab League peace plan to give Moslems a greater share of political power in Lebanon at the expense of the Christians.

Syria's President Assad was quoted by Kuwait's al-Qabas newspaper as saying Damascus would back Hrawi in any bid to remove Aoun, who has rejected the Lebanese president's election by members of parliament last month.

"I do not rule out either a political or a military settlement. The political action has a role and may achieve what is required, but I do not put the highest hopes on political

25X1

Page Denied

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Denied

PAGE:0001

INQUIRE=DOC13D
ITEM NO=00607317

CDS

D 03899RUQMQFA 0467 3430823ZFUR94966

118306MIDB
UPID

S
HEADER

RTTUZYUW RUQMQFA0467 3430818 MTMS-UUUU--RUEBHAA RUEBHAA.

ZNR UUUUU ZYN

R 090812Z DEC 89

FM FBIS NICOSIA CY

TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA

RUCBSAA/FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//

RUCQAAA/USCINCCENT INTELLIGENCE CENTER MACDILL AFB FL

RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OTS CEN MACDILL AFB FL

RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//

RUDKMBK/FBIS LONDON UK//BBC//

RUDKMKE/FBIS LONDON UK

RUDMNOP/NAVOPINTCEN SUITLAND MD

RUEBFGA/VOA WASH DC

RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASHINGTON DC

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA//BOE//

RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

RUEKJCS/DEFINTAGENCY WASH DC

RUETIAV/MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD

RUFJRJV/US FORRESTAL

RUFMRDA/CTF SIX ZERO

RUFMRHA/CTF SIX ONE

RUHHHMA/CDRWESTCOM FT SHAFTER HI//APIN-IN//

RUQMIF/AMEMBASSY AMMAN

RUQMIF/FBIS AMMAN JO

ACCT FBNC-EWDK

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS 5N/PMU

WARNING: ATTN JORDAN AAMM

SERIAL: NC0912081289

BODY

PASS: ATTN BBC RIU

COPY TO LIBRARY

COUNTRY: LEBANON

SUBJ: CABINET TERMINATES SERVICES OF AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

REF: NC0712162289 BEIRUT DOMESTIC ARABIC 071500--CABINET MEETING
ENDS, RESOLUTIONS PASSED

SOURCE: BEIRUT DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC 0530 GMT 9 DEC 89

TEXT:

((TEXT)) THE FOREIGN MINISTRY YESTERDAY SENT A CABLE TO
'ABDALLAH ABU-HABIB, HITHERTO LEBANESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON,
INFORMING HIM OF THE CABINET'S DECISION TO TERMINATE HIS SERVICES
AND REQUESTING HIM TO LEAVE HIS POST.

ADMIN

(ENDALL) 090530 MK/GERMANOS/CP 09/0819Z DEC

BT

UNCLASSIFIED

T28180

Sat Dec 09 07:58:45 1989

Page 1

RYRSAF

743

-LEBANON-FADLALLAH

Sat Dec 09 07:44:32 1989

CAR BOMBERS TRY TO KILL HIZBOLLAH LEADER

BEIRUT, Dec 9, Reuter - Assassins tried to ambush the spiritual leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite fundamentalists with a big car bomb on Saturday, his group said.

A car packed with 80 kg (175 pounds) of mines and explosives was discovered before Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah went past on his way to Bi'ir al-Abed mosque in Beirut's southern suburbs.

"The car bomb was aimed at the life of Sheikh Fadlallah," said a spokesman for the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). "It was parked on the road he takes every day at a specific hour to go and pray at the mosque."

Roadside bombs have been used for political assassinations throughout Lebanon's 14 years of civil war, including last month's murder of president Rene Muawad just 17 days after his election.

Fadlallah has been the target of several reported assassination attempts. A car bomb killed 92 people near his home in 1985 in what The Washington Post said was a rogue operation funded by the United States.

Fadlallah wields strong influence on Hizbollah, which Western governments believe has close links with underground groups holding most of the 19 Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon.

Hizbollah, which has vowed to purge Lebanon of Western presence, denies any connection with the hostage-takers.

Western governments also blamed Hizbollah for bomb attacks in 1983 which killed 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

The Hizbollah spokesman said the group's own security units found and dismantled Saturday's car bomb. They arrested a number of people for interrogation, he added.

REUTER SN JA

NNNN

50X1-HUM

Page Denied

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Denied